

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1
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 U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Monitored Western European radio broadcasts continue to ignore the Military Assistance Program as a topic for news and comment. Sole exceptions are a Paris review of a 15 June article in LE FIGARO by Paul Reynaud, who is quoted as making a "veritable appeal" to Congress for speedy action in rearming Europe and a BASLER NACHRICHTEN comment that American aid is the only thing capable of guaranteeing Western European safety. The Soviet radio continues to show interest in Western European military developments, largely as evidence of the aggressiveness of the North Atlantic Pact, but little specific comment is given to the Military Assistance Program. South American transmitters ignore the topic entirely. South Korean transmitters publicize President Rhee's reiterated pleas for American military aid, but other Far Eastern radios avoid the subject.

a. Western European and Near Eastern Reactions: According to the Paris radio, the 15 June issue of LE FIGARO contained a "veritable appeal" to Congress from Paul Reynaud, who warned that if the Americans delayed help to Western Europe until it was again necessary to liberate it, they would be "rescuing a corpse." M. Reynaud asked: "Will the Congress of the United States refuse to follow President Truman who stated last Saturday that his country has the duty to arm the Europeans too enfeebled by the war to be able to arm themselves? Or will it resign itself to see Western Europe invaded and forsaken, and liberate it later with its armies, as in 1944? To make it short, will American aid intervene before the invasion or afterwards?"

The Swiss paper, BASLER NACHRICHTEN, according to the Berne radio, said that Europe is watching with keen interest economic, military and political developments in the United States. "For the next few years at least American aid is the only thing able to guarantee the safety of Western Europe.... Only when Europe knows what it can count on will it be possible to work out a program for a long time ahead."

Monitored radio reports on the discussions in various West European Parliaments on the 1949-50 military budgets make no reference to joint military action nor to the commitments of the various countries under the Military Assistance Program.

AKSAM, publication of the Turkish Foreign Minister, discusses the Turkish-French-British Alliance of 1939 in the light of current developments, according to Ankara radio. The paper concludes that revision of this agreement, particularly of that section freeing Turkey from action which would entail hostilities between her and Russia, is unnecessary, since it

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is likely that any Soviet aggression would most likely be directed against or spread to Turkey. "The revision of the agreement from this point of view would possibly constitute an unnecessary provocation for Russia against Turkey."

b. Soviet and Satellite Reactions: Soviet broadcasts give considerable attention to Western military moves as evidence of the aggressive nature of the North Atlantic Pact and its members. But Moscow tends to belittle the practical significance of joint military action, and a 25 June TASS transmission tells of growing dissention in the Western Union military staff. The Continental members of the Brussels Pact, says the broadcast, are indignant over the refusal of Britain to supply arms on credit to her allies. Further, differences between the Brussels Powers and the United States continue to grow:

"The hopes which the governing circles of the Western Union countries placed on their patron from across the ocean for a rain of dollars pouring down after the conclusion of the military treaty were not justified."

Several Soviet broadcasts discuss the alleged failure of the British and Dutch Army recruiting campaign, ascribing this to the reluctance of youth in these countries to becoming cannon fodder for the American imperialists. Moscow reiterates familiar charges that the Americans are sponsoring the reorganization and re-equipping of the German, Austrian and Japanese armies.

No monitored broadcasts from Satellite transmitters are concerned with the Military Assistance Program, directly or indirectly.

Editor's Note: Because the last survey of world radio reactions to the Military Assistance Program, covering the period 1 May - 15 June, revealed a conspicuous lack of interest in this subject, particular precautions were again taken to make sure that all broadcast material bearing on any aspect of the Military Assistance Program would be made available.

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